NCA.
VOC FOR IOP/FN
NEWS ANALYSIS 1-0207 FEBRUARY 20, 1976
DON FRANKLIN/BONN

BONN-WARSAW AGREEMENTS CONTROVERSY

ANNCR:

WEST GERMANY'S NEWEST AGREEMENTS WITH POLAND WILL FACE THEIR FINAL PARLIAMENTARY HURDLE IN BONN ON MARCH TWELFTH. BUT IT IS NOT YET CERTAIN THAT THE ACCORDS WILL RECEIVE FULL PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL, NOT LEAST BECAUSE THIS IS AN ELECTION YEAR IN WEST GERMANY. FOR AN ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION, HERE IS DON FRANKLIN IN BONN.

VOICE:

WEST GERMANY'S PENSION PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS WITH POLAND ARE UP FOR RATIFICATION BY THE BONN PARLIAMENT IN A TURBULENT YEAR IN GERMAN POLITICS. THIS IS A FEDERAL ELECTION YEAR, AND THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS ARE INTENT ON REGAININ THE POWER THEY LOST TO THE SOCIAL AND FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES WHICH JOINED FORCES IN NINETEEN SIXTY-NINE.

WHEN THEN-CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT BEGAN HIS DRIVE FOR NORMAL RELATIONS WITH GERMANY'S EASTERN NEIGHBORS AND WARTIME ENEMIES -- PARTICULARLY POLAND -- HIS OSTPOLITIK UNDOUBTEDLY HAD THE EMOTIONAL AND POLITICAL BACKING OF A MAJORITY OF THE WEST GERMANY POPULATION. (OPT) IN FACT, IN NINETEEN SEVENTY-TWO, WHEN THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS UNSUCCESSFULLY TRIED TO TOPPLE THE CHANCELLOR IN PARLIAMENT AND TOUCHED OFF NEW ELECTIONS, MR. BRANDT CARRIED THE QUESTION OF HIS OSTPOLITIK TO THE PEOPLE. IT WAS THE PRIMARY CAMPAIGN ISSUE. HE

WAS RETURNED TO POWER WITH A MUCH LARGER MAJORITY THAN HE HAD WON THREE YEARS EARLIER. (END OPT)

BOTH THOSE WERE DIFFERENT TIMES FOR WEST GERMANY, THE POPULATION WAS STRONGLY INCLINED TO WANT TO MAKE AMENDS FOR THE PAST. THE COUNTRY HAD OVERCOME A SLIGHT RECESSION, JOBS WERE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE AND WEST GERMANS WERE BASKING IN ECONOMIC PROSPERITY. TODAY THE SITUATION IN WEST GERMANY IS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT: THOUGH THE ECONOMY IS IMPROVING, THE COUNTRY IS NEVERTHELESS IN THE MIDST OF ITS WORST POSTWAR ECONOMIC RECESSION: ONE MILLION PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR JOBS, AND PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS SHOW THAT AS THE FORTUNES OF THE INDIVIDUAL WEST GERMAN HAVE DECLINED, SO HAS HIS INTEREST IN OSTPOLITIK. (OPT) OPINION POLLS INDICATE THAT THIS TIME IT WOULD BE SUICIDAL FOR ANY PARTY TO WAGE AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN ON EASTERN POLICY...THAT THE EMOTIONAL TENDENCY TO WANT TO MAKE AMENDS CAN NO LONGER BE TURNED INTO POLITICAL CAPITAL, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT CASH PAYMENTS HAVE BECOME A PART OF OSTPOLITIK. (END OPT)

THE TREATIES UP FOR RATIFICATION CALL FOR WEST GERMANY TO TRANSFER THE EQUIVALENT OF NINE-HUNDRED-MILLION DOLLARS TO POLAND. IN RETURN, WARSAW SAYS IT WILL PERMIT UP TO ONE-HUNDRED-TWENTY-FIVE-THOUSAND ETHNIC GERMANS TO EMIGRATE FROM POLAND. OPINION SURVEYS INDICATE THAT THE WEST GERMAN VOTER FAVORS CONCILIATION WITH POLAND BUT IS DECISIVELY AGAINST PAYING CASH FOR CONCILIATION OR FAMILY REUNIONS. AND A RECENT POLL CONCLUDED THAT MORE

THAN TWO-THIRDS OF THE WEST GERMAN POPULATION IS AGAINST THE AGREEMENTS NOW BEING DEBATED IN THE BONN PARLIAMENT.

AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND OF PUBLIC OPINION IN AN ELECTION YEAR, THE OPPOSITION CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS REACHED THEIR DECISION TO USE THEIR MAJORITY IN THE UPPER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT TO BLOCK THE AGREEMENTS -- AT LEAST IN THEIR PRESENT FORM OR WITHOUT FURTHER BINDING CLARIFICATION. CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT SAYS THE OPPOSITION TACTIC WILL BACKLASH BY ELECTION DAY ON OCTOBER THIRD, AND THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE THE POPULATION AWARE OF THE MORAL IMPLICATIONS AND POSSIBLE FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES IF THE ACCORDS ARE NOT PASSED.

NEVERTHELESS, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS' STRONG DEMANDS FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION AND MORE HUMANITARIAN TREATMENT OF ETHNIC GERMANS IN POLAND -- BOTH THOSE WHO WANT TO LEAVE AND THOSE WHO DECIDE TO REMAIN BEHIND -- SEEM TO BE CAUSING NEW MOVEMENT BETWEEN BONN AND WARSAW. POLAND AT FIRST FLATLY REJECTED THE IDEA OF ANY FURTHER TALK ABOUT THE AGREEMENTS. BUT SINCE THE BONN OPPOSITION MADE CLEAR THAT IT WILL KILL THE ACCORDS IN THEIR PRESENT FORM, POLAND HAS INDICATED THAT IT IS PREPARED TO GIVE WEST GERMANY AT LEAST ADDITIONAL VERBAL ASSURANCES ON THE FUTURE OF ETHNIC GERMANS WHO LEAVE OR REMAIN IN POLAND. AND FOREIGN MINISTER HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER HAS NOW ASSURED PARLIAMENT THAT THE BONN GOVERNMENT WILL DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO GET THE AGREEMENTS RATIFIED. THIS MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN A HINT THAT BONN WILL, INDEED, NOW TAKE UP OFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH

WARSAW ON THE MATTER. IN ANY CASE, THE LAST WORD ON THE FATE OF THE ACCORDS HAS NOT YET BEEN SPOKEN... EITHER IN WARSAW OR BONN.

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